

PSC NEWSMissouri Public Service Commission

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PSC SETS PREHEARING CONFERENCE IN COMPLAINT CASE AGAINST MANUFACTURED HOME DEALER

Jefferson City (November 5, 2004)---Parties in a PSC Staff complaint case against America's Home Brokers, Inc. will meet in a prehearing conference on November 23, 2004 to consider a proposed hearing schedule.

On September 21, 2004, the Commission issued an order finding America's Home Brokers, Inc. of Moscow Mills, Missouri, in default and allegations admitted in a PSC Staff complaint case. The Commission's decision was based on the fact that the manufactured home dealer had failed to provide a timely response to Staff's complaint as directed in a previous Commission order. The Commission's September 21, 2004 order had authorized the PSC Staff to go to circuit court to seek penalties against the dealer.

On September 28, 2004, America's Home Brokers, Inc. filed a motion to set aside the order granting default. The manufactured home dealer stated it had retained counsel relatively late in the period allowed to file an answer to the PSC Staff complaint, and thus was not able to timely file its answer.

The Commission, in an order issued on November 4, 2004, determined America's Home Brokers, Inc. has shown good cause and the Commission will set aside its order of default. As a result, the complaint case is back before the Commission.

Background: In July 2004, the PSC Staff filed a complaint against the manufactured home dealer alleging that America's Home Brokers, Inc.:

*failed to properly comply with the setup procedures for a manufactured home dealer and to correct those setup deficiencies within a reasonable amount of time;

*altered a manufactured home and failed to obtain approval for the alteration;

*failed to correctly anchor a manufactured home; and

*failed to correct various code violations as identified in PSC Staff inspection reports within 90 days after being ordered to do so by the PSC Staff.